

**William Thornton, Alexander White, and Tristram Dalton,  
Commissioners to Thomas Jefferson, October 15, 1801,  
from Thomas Jefferson and the National Capital. Edited  
by Saul K. Padover.**

**Commissioners to Jefferson**

*Commissioners' Office, 15th. Octo 1801*

*Sir*

An application was this day made to us to grant lots at a cash price and permit the value to be laid out in improving F Street N. from the President's Square to 11th Street west then down to Pennsylvania Avenue and again from 11th. Street west along E Street north to 8th. Street west, and to Pennsylvania Avenue.

We are of opinion, that the Improvement of F Street north, as far as 11th. Street west, and to the Avenue, would be highly advantageous; but, while we contemplate and acknowledge the utility of the undertaking by the mode proposed, we however cannot forbear alluding to the specific purposes to which the funds arising from the Property vested in the public by the original proprietors were destined and though in many Instances the strict Letter of the original intention has been deviated from, these deviations have comprehended many general advantages to the Public; and being peculiar in themselves they could not lead as examples to general consequences, yet, if the present application be admitted we fear the danger of similar applications to an extent that would create immediate inconveniences, by taking out of the public funds, the most saleable lots.

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To the President, however, we submit the decision with the greatest deference. We are, with sentiments &c.

W. Thornton

A. White

T. Dalton

TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED-STATES.

[P. 113, COMMISSIONERS' LETTERBOOK, Vol. 6, 1800–02, in the National Archives.]